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Reach people already a church,
(Continued on page 2)

Board Reorganizes, Names Seven To Posts

(Continued from page 1)

formation services into closer alignment with other communications aspects of the board in what Parks described as a "lean, responsive team" designed to tell the global missions story more effectively to Southern Baptists.

As executive vice president, O'Brien will continue to carry many of the responsibilities he has had as secretary for denominational coordination and will represent the president in his absence. He also will function as liaison to the Baptist World Alliance and non-Baptist missions bodies and sending agencies and represent Parks at his request.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, the 46-year-old O'Brien is a musician and composer who has also served as a pastor. He and his wife, the former Dellanna West of Odessa, Texas, were missionaries to Indonesia, 1963 to 1974. He is the author of "Missions for Tomorrow," the 1980 adult mission study book.

Beaver, as administrative assistant, will manage the executive offices; assist in administration, management, budget and organization; plan and implement administrative and logistical support for the board; and represent the president and executive vice president in their absence.

Now 55, Beaver retired from the Air Force as a colonel in 1976 with 33 years' service. As deputy chief of staff for logistics with the Alaskan Air Command, he was nominated as outstanding logistician in the Air Force and received the Legion of Merit in 1976. Active as a church lay leader while in service, he pursued this interest by taking seminary training after retirement. Since 1978 he has been manager of media resources in the board's communications department.

Crawley Transferred

Crawley, 59, has served since 1968 as the director of the overseas division, which today administers the work of almost 3,000 missionaries in 94 countries. Earlier he had worked 14 years as secretary for the Orient. He and his wife, the former Margaret Lawrence of Lufkin, Texas, were missionaries to China and Southeast Asia, 1947 to 1954. A native of Newport, Tenn., Crawley is the author of two mission study books and a Christian doctrine book in Chinese. He grew up at Blue Mountain, Miss.

In his new role Crawley will represent broad overall concerns of the executive office not limited to any part of the organization, Parks said, and will bring recommendations as the basis for decision making by the president and executive management group.

Crawley's former duties as administrative head of the overseas missionary force will be assumed by Bryan, a 57-year-old native of Whitesboro,

Texas. For the past 12 years Bryan has been area secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, administering the work of missionaries, assigned to 25 countries and to the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso, Texas.

Bryan and his wife, the former Martha Christian of East Point, Ga., served 18 years as missionaries — first in Costa Rica, then Peru and later in Colombia when Bryan was named field representative for the Caribbean and northern South America. In his new post, Bryan will supervise the work of area secretaries as well as consultants who assist in specialized areas.

Marshall, 48, has served as secretary for furlough ministries since 1976. A native of Frankfort, Ky., he served as a pastor in Kentucky and Virginia and for more than five years was an associate secretary for missionary personnel at the board.

Mrs. Scofield, 57, has served as planning specialist in the denominational coordination department for more than three years. Born in Huntington, W. Va., she grew up in Ashland, Ky. Before joining the board's home office staff in 1954, she was a missionary to Japan, 1951 to 1954, and had previous experience as an assistant editor of "The Student," a Baptist Sunday School Board publication.

Reber, 61, is a native of Jackson, Miss. Since 1969 he has directed the board's management service division. He and his wife, the former Alwilda Montgomery of Missouri, were missionaries to Malaysia, 1962 to 1969.

Earlier Reber had worked with U.S. government agencies for 20 years. These included the Veterans Administration, Civil Service Commission, the War Department (later the Department of Defense), and the Internal Revenue Service, where he was regional training officer.

Carter Staffers Speak On Clergy Spy Use

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP) — Two Carter administration officials testified before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence against a proposed prohibition of the use of clergy or religious institutions by the Central Intelligence Agency.

CIA Director Stansfield Turner said a prohibition against intelligence relationships with members of religious, media or academic organizations would be an "unwarranted limitation of flexibility."

"There can arise unique circumstances in which intelligence relationships with members of these institutions are not only warranted, but may be the only means available for accomplishing important intelligence objectives," Turner said.

Admiral Daniel J. Murphy, deputy under secretary of defense for policy, labeled any "outright ban" on the use of religious, media or educational organizations "unwise."

Both Turner and Murphy called for regulation of the relationships between clergy, media and academic persons and the intelligence community by executive branch guidelines, rather than by statute.

Their testimony conflicts with the positions taken recently by several members of the religious community, include the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board.

The position of these Baptist groups calls for a direct prohibition of the use of clergy as informants as well as an outright ban on members of the intelligence community posing as clergy.

The House committee and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence



Rusty Griffin, R.A. consultant for the state Brotherhood department, awards basketball trophy to Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, Coach Tom Prather took the Pioneer R. A. team to Montgomery this past weekend for the Southeastern State Champions' Basketball Tournament. They were defeated by Georgia and Alabama during the tourney.



Crusaders participated in a track meet while the Pioneers held a basketball tournament. See pictures at right and below right.

Indianapolis (EP) — The United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. is considering a full-scale re-entry into mass media broadcasting — on both sustained and purchase time — as a competing alternative to the high-flying success of the fundamentalist "electronic church."

A Cooperative Program Quiz

(Continued from page 1)

- (b) Compete with other church denominations.
 - (c) Neither of the above.
- The Cooperative Program seeks to help to make it possible for the gospel to be shared throughout the world by the year 2000.
6. Baptists through the Cooperative Program support:
- (1) Foreign Missions,
 - (b) Home Missions,
 - (c) Seminary education,
 - (d) Radio and TV work,
 - (e) Plus other worthy missions causes.
 - (f) All of the above.
7. One of the goals of Beld Mission Thrust is:
- (a) To double Cooperative Program gifts to \$300 million by 1982.
 - (b) To teach ten new languages.
 - (c) To lower Sunday School attendance.
8. Southern Baptists provide radio and television programs through the:
- (a) Internal Revenue Service,
 - (b) Cooperative Program,
 - (c) People who put soy sauce on ice cream.
9. Our home and foreign missionaries number approximately:
- (a) Six thousand,
 - (b) 6,000,
 - (c) Either of the above.
10. You can be a part of the Cooperative Program by:
- (a) Praying for its work,
 - (b) Giving to your church and voting for your church to give to missions through the Cooperative program,
 - (c) Both a and b.

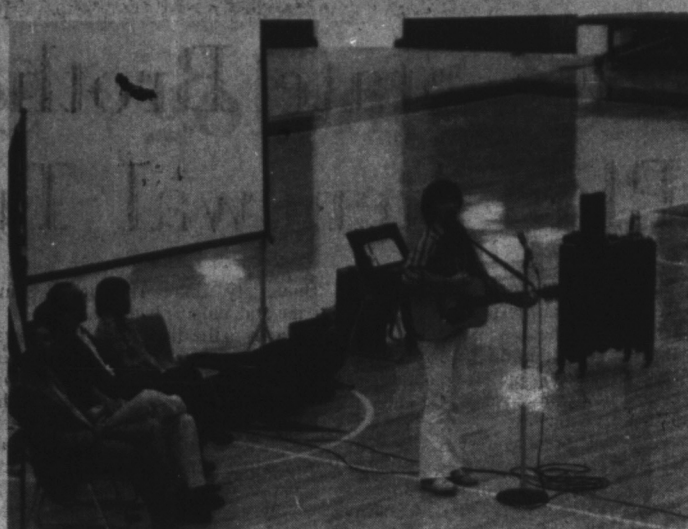
Answers: 1(c); 2(c); 3(D); 4(A); 5(C); 6(F); 7(A); 8(B); 9(C); 10(C).

Challenges And Growth

(Continued from page 1)

Institute — the first such orientation for a volunteer project.

"I felt the language training was the



Jeff Powell, a student at Southwestern Seminary and a graduate of Mississippi College leads the music during the R.A. Congress. He was assisted with special music by Gen Dyder, also a student at the seminary.

R.A. Congress 1980



Thomas Law Missionary To Spain, Dies In Texas

HOUSTON (BP) — Thomas L. Law Jr., Southern Baptist missionary to Spain, died of cancer April 3 at Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Services were held April 5 at South

Main Baptist Church, Houston, followed by graveside services in Cameron, Texas.

Law, 51, who had served as a field evangelist in Spain since 1964, had flown from Spain to Houston on Jan. 19, and was operated on for cancer four days later. He was released from the hospital and began receiving chemotherapy treatment before reentering the hospital March 20.

Law was born in Houston and also lived in Wharton and Bryan. Before he was appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1962, he had been superintendent of missions for the Lower Rio Grande Baptist Association.

Previously, he had served in Cuba with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for eight years, working among British West Indians, Americans and Cuban. During that time he was pastor of two English-language churches and a Spanish-language mission and taught in the Cuban Baptist Theological Seminary.

Broadmoor Will Present "Acts" At MC

The music and drama ministries of Broadmoor Church, Jackson will pre-

Two RA Camp Programs Are Set

Two Royal Ambassador camping programs are available for Baptist boys in Mississippi this summer, both at Central Hills Baptist Retreat at Kosciusko.

One is a resident camp for boys in grades 4-12. Costing \$40 per person, the camp offers eight different weeks of programs.

The other is for boys in grades 1-3 and their fathers. The Dad-Lad Weekends will be July 18-19 and July 25-26. They cost \$10 per person.

The resident camps' dates are June 9-13, June 16-20, June 23-27, July 14-18, July 21-25, July 28-Aug. 1, and Aug. 4-8.

The camps include water and other recreational sports, Bible study and group activities.

For registration information, contact Rusty Griffin, Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Before You Move

1. Attach old mailing label in the space below or order

Two State Brotherhoods Plan Renewal Training

The Mississippi-Louisiana Regional Renewal Awareness/Training Conference is scheduled for May 16-17, 1980 at the Ramada Hilltop Inn in Natchez, Mississippi. The conference begins at 7 p.m. Friday and ends at 9:45 p.m. Saturday.

The two principal speakers are Findley Edge and David Haney. Edge is a member of Southern Baptist Seminary faculty. He is well known for his publications, the latest being *The Greening of the Church* . . . and before that, *A Quest for Vitality in Religion*, and others.

He is a member of The Commission on Church Life of the Baptist World Alliance, on the editorial board of *Faith at Work* magazine and is business manager of *Review and Expositor*.

He received a scholarship from the American Association of Theological Schools to study the lay movements and evangelical academies in England, Scotland, Germany, France, Switzerland, and Italy 1964-65.

He has led conferences and spoken in most of the above countries, as well as in South America, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines, Hong Kong, Spain, Turkey, Guam and Canada. He received his education at Stetson University, Southern Seminary, Columbia

University, Union Theological Seminary and Yale University.

Haney is the director of lay renewal for the Southern Baptist Convention through its Brotherhood Commission. He has spoken on renewal across the United States and in various parts of the world and is the author of a number of books, among them, a group study book, *Renew My Church*.

Other prominent participants in the conference are Emory Wallace and William Clemmons. Wallace is pastor of First Baptist Church, DeRidder, La. Clemmons is on the religious education staff of Southeastern Seminary.

The effectiveness of renewal is being echoed throughout Mississippi, according to Paul Harrell, state Brotherhood director. "From the smallest to the largest church, the penetrating effects of Renewal are helping God's people become even more concerned and involved through their churches," says Harrell. Various aspects of Renewal permeate the complete process of the Bold Missions Thrust. Renewal is vital in our coming alive in Christ, both as individuals and the body called the church. The Lay Renewal Conference in Natchez will utilize some of the Convention's most skilled conference leaders. David Causey and Wilma Wild will contri-

World Of Disney Will Be Garaywa Retreat Theme

"The World of Disney," a retreat for exceptional persons, their parents and teachers, will be held May 16 and 17 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

The retreat will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and go through 4 p.m. Saturday. Registration will begin mid-afternoon Friday.

The retreat is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Church Training Department and is an annual event. It will involve activities for exceptional persons and discussion groups for pa-

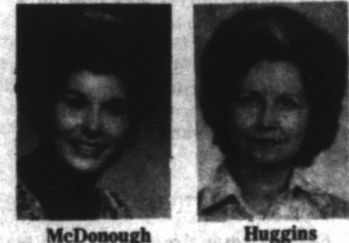
rents and teachers. The latter will be led by Mrs. Doris Monroe, a consultant for exceptional persons with the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School Board.

Among those providing entertainment will be the Washboard Band for Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton, a magic act, a puppeteer, and a ventriloquist.

Reservation information is available from Evelyn George in the Baptist Building, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205, phone 354-3704.

The Role Of Secretary To Be Viewed From All Directions

The program for the May 5-6 Mississippi church secretaries' conference includes sessions on the role of the secretary in relationship, how to dress up the church newsletter, and simultaneous sessions for financial, music-education, general, pastors', and associational secretaries.



Chickasaw Reports Two WIN Schools

The Chickasaw County Baptist Association had two WIN Schools, March 24-28. One school met at First Church, Okolona. J. C. Mitchell, director of missions for Golden Triangle Baptist Missions of Columbus, led this group. They had 24 people enrolled.

The second school met at Parkway Church, Houston. Jack Gregory, pastor of West Heights, Pontotoc, led in this study. The Parkway school had 39 men, women, and youths to complete the course.

David Norris is the director of evangelism in the county; Hollis Bryant is the foster director of missions.

Two professions of faith were reported.

March Giving In SBC Totals \$5,871,735

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Giving through the Southern Baptist Convention's national Cooperative Program totaled \$5,871,735 in March, the sixth month of the fiscal year.

The March total was a 9.61 percent increase over March 1979 but the percentage is distorted because of circumstances last year. A Cooperative Program check from a major state convention failed to reach the Executive Committee, which disburses the funds, last February. The check arrived in early March, making the Cooperative Program totals smaller in February, but with two checks in March, making that month deceptively large.

Consequently comparisons in 1980 show a tremendous increase over Feb-

ruary 1979 and a smaller increase in March. But when comparing the two months as a unit, February-March 1980 shows an 18.56 percent increase over February-March 1979.

The undesignated Cooperative Program receipts from March, along with another \$8,937,216 in designated contributions, brought total giving for the month to \$14,808,951, up 1.13 percent over the same month last year.

Through the first six months of the 1979-80 fiscal year, Southern Baptists have given \$36,071,047 through the Cooperative Program, up 14.55 percent over the same period last year. Designated contributions total \$40,541,234, up 14.92 percent. Designated and undesignated gifts total \$76,612,281 up 14.74 percent over last year.



but to the musical program, and Beth Lord and Wilma Wild will be among the conference leaders.

Paul Harrell and Calvin Cantrell of the Evangelism Department, Louisiana Baptist Convention, look forward to an exciting and informative conference.

Reservations may be made at the Ramada Inn, Hilltop for those desiring to spend Friday night. If further information is needed, please contact the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, telephone 354-3704.

A friend is someone who can see through you and still enjoys the show. — Farmer's Almanac

Pastor's Conference

(Continued from page 1)

10:00 Message: "Only Christ Crucified" — Joel Gregory, Fort Worth, TX
 10:30 Congregational Singing
 10:35 Offering and Choral Music
 10:45 Special Music — Lonnie Parsons, San Antonio, TX
 10:55 Message: "What God Wants in Us" — George H. Harris, San Antonio, TX
 11:25 Congregational Singing
 11:30 Special Music — Jack Price, Garland, TX
 11:35 Message: "In the Meantime" — Richard Jackson, Phoenix, AZ
 Benediction — James Miller, Fort Worth, TX

Monday Afternoon, June 9

1:15 Pre-session Music — First Southern Baptist Church Choir, Del City, OK, Aubie McSwain, director
 1:45 Scripture and Prayer — David French, Swartz Creek, MI
 1:50 Special Music — Richard Bradford, Albuquerque, NM
 2:00 Message: "Revival Through the Word" — Stan Coffey, Albuquerque, NM
 2:30 Offering and Choral Music
 2:40 Congregational Singing
 2:45 Special Music — Russell Newport, Springfield, MO
 2:55 Message: "A New Testament Strategy for Reaching People" — Bailey Stone, Odessa, TX
 3:25 Congregational Singing
 3:30 Special Music — First Southern Baptist Church Choir, Del City, OK, Aubie McSwain, director
 3:45 Election of Officers
 4:00 Special Music — Stone Brothers, Rome, GA
 4:10 Message: "Victory Is Ours" — Grady Cothen, Nashville, TN
 Benediction

Monday Evening, June 9

6:00 Pre-session Music — First Baptist Church Choir, Dallas, TX, Gary Moore, director
 6:30 Scripture and Prayer — Bob Sena, Dallas, TX
 6:35 Special Music — Jack Price, Garland, TX
 6:40 Message: "Let's Major on the Major" — Roy Fish, Fort Worth, TX
 7:10 Congregational Singing
 7:15 Special Music — First Baptist Church Choir, Dallas, TX, Gary Moore, director
 7:25 Message: "Honorable Vessels" — William G. Tanner, Atlanta, GA
 7:55 Offering and Choral Music
 8:05 Special Music — Jim Davis, Tulsa, OK
 8:15 Message: "A Babbiling Preacher and a Strange Gospel" — Bailey Smith, Del City, OK
 8:45 Special Music — First Baptist Church Choir, Dallas, TX, Gary Moore, director
 9:00 Message: "Old Time Religion" — W. A. Criswell, Dallas, TX
 Introduction of New Pastors' Conference Officers
 Benediction — Newly Elected President of Pastors' Conference

Pastors' Conference Officers

President — James T. Draper, pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, TX; Vice President — Larry Lewis, pastor, Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO; Secretary — James A. Miller, pastor, Riddle Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX; Music Coordinator — Jack Price, evangelistic musician, Garland, TX

Investment In Hiroshima Increases 426 Times

HIROSHIMA, Japan (BP) — Thirty-five years after Hiroshima, the faith, prayers and money of Southern Baptists have been rewarded through a transaction of First Baptist Church of Hiroshima, Japan.

When the atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima, the First Baptist Church was among those buildings destroyed. Although the building was

gone, all the Baptists weren't and when Southern Baptist missionaries returned to their work in Japan after the war they took with them \$10,000 to rebuild the church.

Years passed and the central city began closing in on the Hiroshima church. The building needed repairs and large businesses wanted the location. The congregation voted to sell for \$4.3 million and move to another site.

Cost of the new property, a sanctuary with adjoining educational building and a modern parsonage, came to \$3 million. The church voted to donate the remaining \$1.3 million to the Japan Baptist Convention for the support of the theological department at Seinan Gakuin (university) in Fukuoka.

The initial \$10,000 investment made by Southern Baptists has increased 426.3 times and will continue to support missions in Japan.

Mississippi Baptist Activities

Cancelled: April 18-19 Family Camping Workshop, Central Hills, Kosciusko, 6:00 p.m., 18th-3:00 p.m., 19th. (CT)
 April 21-22 Sunday School Teaching & Growth Conferences, 7:00-9:30 p.m.
 21 — FBC, Corinth
 22 — FBC, Amory
 April 21-25 Baptist Doctrine Study (CT Emphasis)
 April 21-23 Seminar: Effective Ministry With Senior Adults, Baptist Building, Jackson, 2:00 p.m., 21st-12:00 Noon, 23rd. (CT)
 April 24 Sunday School Teaching & Growth Conference, FBC, Winona, 7:00-9:30 p.m.
 April 26 Discovery: God's Horizon, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (CAPM)

Oakland, Corinth Will Dramatize "Last Supper"

Oakland Church, Corinth, will present "The Living Dramatization of the Last Supper." This presentation will be Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, April 20, 21, and 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Tommy Vinson, pastor, states that the public is invited and a nursery will be provided.

Village Plans Conference

(Continued from page 1)

are foster parents. Clark teaches in the Law School at Mississippi College. The Village house parents who will be on the program are Frances Boyanton and "Granny" Brown. The group home parent will be Gloria Shelton of Dickerson Place near Brookhaven. Dickerson Place is the newest installation of the Children's Village.

Foster homes relating to the Village are licensed by the Village and not by the state, Mrs. Hitt said. There is no pay to the foster parents. She said 22 or 23 children are living in foster homes. The total number of children in the care of the Children's Village is almost 200, she said.

Paul N. Nunnery is the executive director.

New President Named At American Seminary

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Odell McGlothlin Sr., an executive of the publishing arm of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., has been elected 11th president of the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville.

Charles E. Boddie, president since 1963 of the school, which is owned and operated jointly by the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., and the Southern Baptist Convention, has been named chancellor. American Baptist Theological Seminary is a predominantly black undergraduate ministerial training school organized in 1924.

McGlothlin, 50, will become chief administrative officer of the seminary June 1. The Vaiden, Miss., native is currently director of publications at Nashville's Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. He is also pastor of the

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in nearby Hendersonville.

He is a graduate of Judson College, Elgin, Ill.; Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, Oak Brook, Ill.; and earned the master and doctorate degree in education from Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.

A former teacher and counselor in the Detroit public school system, McGlothlin has been director of educational services of the Detroit Urban League.

While in Detroit, McGlothlin was for 11 years pastor of the Church of Our Father Baptist Church. He has also been pastor of churches in East Chicago, Ind., and Milwaukee, Wis.

He and his wife, the former Gloria D. McDonald have five children.

As chancellor of the seminary, Boddie will serve the school in a public relations capacity. A well-known civic and religious leader, Boddie served as church pastor in New York and West Virginia for 21 years before joining the staff of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies in 1956.

Single Adults to Consider "Free To Be" May 23-26

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly will be the place for the young and median single adults to consider "Free To Be" May 23-26, 1980.

Among the personalities appearing on the program are: Skip and Gloria Craig, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.; Curtis Brewer, minister of music, and the singles choir, Dalraida Baptist Church, Montgomery, Ala.; Macklyn Hubbell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Cleveland; Steve McNeely, pastor, Northside Baptist Church, Clinton; Don K. Dinsmore, associate chaplain supervisor, University Medical Center, Jackson; Carolyn Ellis Jones, Owner, Employment Agency, Greenwood; Woody Toler, vice president, Production Credit Association, Jackson; Beverly Stubblefield, mental health Counselor, Greenwood; and Frank Butler, minister to college and single adults, and Becky Payne, organist, of First Baptist Church, Jackson. Miss Payne's song, "Free To Be," will be the theme song for the conference.

The theme and program format was originally designed for a First Baptist Church of Jackson singles' conference, which was flooded out at Easter

time last year. Among the subjects to be discussed during the conference are: Cutting Loose; Establishing Intimate and Healthy Relationships; Career Evaluation and Change; Coping With Being Single Again; Single Parenting; Spiritual Growth; Self Love: The Key to Successful Living; The Bible, Divorce, and Remarriage; Values and Decision Making; and Money Management. The Sunday School lesson will be given on Sunday morning.

Registration may be made through the Gulfshore Baptist Assembly by sending a fee of \$15.00, to be applied to the registrant's total expenses of the conference. The conference is designed to be a complete unit by Sunday noon, with an Afterglow program on Sunday night for those who have or can take a holiday on Monday.

Department leaders and teachers of singles are encouraged to attend as there will be opportunities for sharing for such groups to "sharpen their skills," according to Frank Butler, co-director of the retreat, which is sponsored by the Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Price To Be Guest Conductor For Youth Music Conference

By Bob Shuttleworth, Coordinator, Youth Music Conference

Youth Music Conference at Gulfshore will be an exciting event. Conference segments of mass choir singing, classes, worship experiences, and recreation will blend to produce an enduring effect on all who attend, July 19-23.

Milburn Price, chairman of the Music Department at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, will be the guest conductor for the mass choir singing which will climax with a concert on the final night of the conference. Price teaches voice and church music and directs the Furman Concert Choir. He has numerous choral compositions, hymns, arrangements, scholarly articles, and books to his credit. He is a native of Mississippi.

Steve Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church in Gainesville, Ga., will serve as camp pastor for the conference.

Each conference participant will attend one of three rotating classes and one standard class each day. The rotating classes will include: "Morals, or What to Do After the Movie," "Your Voice and You," and "The Second Most Important Book in the Baptist Faith." A sight-singing course, "Sing by Note, Not by Rote," will be on the agenda each day.

The total cost of the conference is \$61.00 per person. A brochure about Gulfshore, which includes a reservation request form, is available from the Assembly and/or the Church Music Department.

Further information on the conference may be obtained from the Church Music department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. Reservations for the conference must be mailed directly to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss. 39571.

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Cooperative Program day . . .

Individual involvement in world missions

Perhaps it would be a worthwhile effort to try to determine how many souls have been born into the Kingdom of God as a result of the ministry of the Cooperative Program.

Sunday is Cooperative Program Day, and it would be nice to know by then what the total would be. That is only three days away, however, and surely that is not enough time to make such a computation.

Well, then, how long would it take to arrive at a total figure? Without question, whatever amount of time is left before the end of the year is not enough to find out what the total evangelistic effort of the Cooperative Program has amounted to. We will not know until we have crossed over into eternity.

The point is that the Cooperative Program is more than the percentage of the monthly income that each church sends into missions efforts through the offices of the state convention. In the results of evangelistic wit-

nessing alone the figures would be staggering. Everyone who claims Jesus as Lord as a result of the witnessing of a missionary who was placed in his area of work by the Cooperative Program would be counted. But that is only the beginning. Like the ripples on a placid lake when a pebble is tossed in, the circles continue to reach out. All those who were won as the result of missions efforts and then in turn won others would be counted. And then those who were won by those others would be counted. And the ripples continue to move out without a stopping place. There is no lake shore to halt their progress. They continue to move around the world over and over again.

These results are not those of foreign missionaries alone but also of home missionaries and of those working in the states. But we're not through counting yet. How many have been won the local church where the offering began its ministry as those who

have been sent by the Cooperative Program have come back to testify of its effectiveness? How many in the local church have been challenged by the missions offering itself to go out into their own communities and become missionaries there?

To this point the focus has been on direct witnessing. Many people, however, who are putting Cooperative Program funds to work are engaged in missions support operations. The Baptist colleges are teaching young people the principles of missions work. The Baptist Student Union organizations are putting missions concepts into action on Baptist and state-supported college campuses. The seminaries are turning eager young people into effective missions representatives. Those people working in state and Southern Baptist convention offices are providing the framework on which missions effectiveness hangs.

There is no measuring the effective-

ness of the Cooperative Program.

There is no formula, however, which was hammered out early in the days of the Cooperative Program that has to be the guideline for today. The decisions on its scope are made in local church conferences and in state and Southern Baptist conventions year after year. A church does not even have to support the efforts generated by the Cooperative Program to remain in fellowship with other Southern Baptist bodies. It is difficult to imagine, however, how a Southern Baptist church could fail to be a supporter of those efforts, for they are the results of the finest way yet discovered to go about carrying out the commission to witness to the world that was given to all churches by the Lord.

Surely, the Cooperative Program and missions are synonymous; and the Cooperative Program offers each of us an avenue for involvement in world missions work. It merits the appreciation and support of all of us.



PRAYER: OUR GREATEST UNTAPPED RESOURCE

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Sunshine Riser

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine . . . (Proverbs 17:22).

"I'll be a Sunbeam for Jesus." Remember singing that when you were a child? "A sunbeam, a sunbeam. I'll be a sunbeam for Him." Dr. J. S. Riser was a sunbeam for Jesus from the time he was baptized at 14, in 1909, until his death April 3, 1980, at the age of 85. So much did he brighten his surroundings during college days that his friends at MC nicknamed him Sunshine. This name stuck because it fitted.

For the past two or three years he had been unable to visit the Baptist Building, as he often used to do; all of us who knew him missed his friendly, lighthearted kidding. I don't remember just when it began, but 15 or 20 years ago, after he read some article I wrote, he started saying every time he came to my office: "Mrs. McWilliams, I want you to be the one to write my obituary." Then he would laugh and quickly add — "but I'm in no rush for it to be printed."

I wish I had written down all the jokes I've heard him tell. Probably I'd have enough to fill a book by now.

John Sherwood Riser was licensed to the ministry by First Church, Ellisville, May 16, 1915. As a boy he decided that agriculture would be his career, so he entered the Agricultural High School at Ellisville, but while he was a junior there he heard the Lord calling him to preach. In August, 1915 he preached his first sermon — at Palestine Church, Hinds County, his home church, where he had been baptized. (He was born in Hinds County February 4, 1895, one of the eight children of Joseph Sherwood and Mary Granberry Riser.)

I asked him one day if he ever did anything besides preach, and he grinned and said, "Not much! I do play a little golf, and walk a lot." It really tickled him that they were still calling him "interim" pastor after he had served Calvary Mission, Jackson, for eight years following regular retirement from the pastorate December 31, 1961.

I wrote a long article to celebrate his 55th anniversary in the ministry, May, 1970. He said he liked it, but added, "Now that is not going to count for my obituary!"

First Church, Clinton, ordained him July 12, 1917, while he was a student at MC. Because of World War I, he enlisted in the Navy and served in Fr-

ance and Germany. Then he went back to Mississippi College to graduate with the Class of 1921.

"My wife has been my inspiration and a wonderful helper," he often said. (She lives at 1170 Maria Drive, Jackson, and is a member of Calvary Church.) Riser got his doctor's degree in theology at Southern Seminary, (in 1926) before he got married. Then at 15th Avenue Church, Meridian, he was Rubye Hall Culpepper's pastor for almost a year before he married her April 17, 1927. She was church organist.

A month or two ago, the last time I talked to him, he was telling me on the phone about his two sons and their wives — John Sherwood, Jr., who teaches at Florida Technological Institute, Orlando, a division of University of Florida, and William Hall, who teaches in Jackson, Mo.

His dark brown eyes would light up with amusement and his booming laugh would sound across the room as he brought a new picture, or an updated biographical sketch. "Well, good morning. Here's some more material for my obituary. You do it right, okay?"

His pastorates besides 15th Avenue included Fannin and Cruger; Brookfield and Fairland (Indiana); Durant; Lowrey Memorial, Blue Mountain; Central Avenue, Memphis; Brazil (Tallahatchie), and Webb. Central Avenue and Webb he led in building education buildings, and Brazil in a sanatorium.

Lots of people knew him and benefited from his sunny, loving personality and his quick mind. He was president of pastors' conferences; moderator of associations; second vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; Convention Board member; Historical Commission member; and trustee of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis. Webb Church sent him on a preaching mission to Alaska.

Needless to say, I was in no more rush to write Dr. Riser's obituary than he was to have me write it. He was a dear good friend who brought a lot of sunshine into my life, and I shall miss him very, very much.

Enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world. It beats money and power and influence. — Henry Chester

Guest opinion . . .

Inflamed with grief

By Jerry Vardaman, Director
Cobb Institute of Archaeology
Mississippi State University
"Who develops a weakness, and it also does not weaken me? Who stumbles, and I am not inflamed with profoundest grief?" (II Corinthians 11:29).

The careful reader will recognize a difference between my translation of the above passage and the way this same text is translated in the King James Version. There we read:

Who is weak, and I am not weak?

Who is offended, and I burn not?

One of the most common experiences in life, which ministers encounter daily, is the heartache we suffer due to the grief which is wrapped up in the routine of life. Sometimes it is personal grief, and Paul, in the context of this same passage, describes many of the severe trials he endured for Jesus' sake (II Corinthians 11:24-28). Among them he lists beatings, stonings, shipwrecks, attempts on his life by robbers, poverty, hunger, and the hurt that comes through misplaced trust in others. As ministers, more often than not, the grief we encounter is due to some trouble which others are facing, or by which they are overwhelmed.

Likewise, in the passage before us, Paul climaxes his discussion of the sorrows which surrounded him by touching on the grief into which he was plunged when others he loved also suffered. This element of Paul's sympathy is not as clearly seen in the King James translation, particularly in the phrase: "Who is offended and I burn not?" The Greek word here is derived from a word meaning "fire" — *pyros*; from this word we have such terms as pyrometer, pyromaniac, pyrotechnics, etc. The word, "pyre," give an excellent example, perhaps, of what his word means in the Greek. (Webster gives dozens of examples.) Unfortunately, far too many of us only think of ourselves during times of grief and are "burned up" at God, or at others who seem not to understand, or at ourselves for letting it happen to us. Perish the thought, but now and then even ministers have been known to rejoice at the downfall of someone by death, disaster, debt, debility, disease, drastic decline, or by the devil. If ministers are thus guilty, laymen also can be weak at this point. This unworthy response is far removed from Paul's attitude.

Recently I discovered a fuller, more vivid significance in Paul's term, "I

burn" (*puroumai*) which was previously not as clear to me. This insight has blessed me very much, because it added for me a dimension in Paul's personality which is not always remembered. We see Paul, for example, shaking off the viper that fixed on his arm on the Island of Malta (Acts 23:1 ff.) and we are quick to think that Paul must have treated all his difficulties and reverses like that — he simply shook them off!

The word "burn" which Paul uses in the passage before us means more accurately, "to burn with sympathetic and profound grief," i.e., "to be overcome with compassion." This is seen in the context with which this same term is used on certain Jewish tombstone inscriptions from Tell el Yehudieh (the ancient Leontopolis where Egyptian Jews had a temple of God which was closed by Vespasian; the cemetery located there dates to the time of Jesus and Paul, and even earlier). I translate two such inscriptions here, and underline the important, particular phrases which relate to the same word that Paul uses:

"(This is the burial place of) tiny Asouada! O father, and O mother, inflamed with profoundest grief (i.e., heartbroken)!

Give attention and cry out in mourning!

(for the young child Asouada).

Who came to the time when life begins to blossom,

But was carried off prematurely!

(Let her) brothers, cry out in mourning for her

(Who had attained to the tender age) of 9 years."

A second inscription from this

cemetery illustrates the same lesson to be learned from Paul's use of this term. This word, "burn," is used frequently to express the mental distress of one who is bereaved and utterly heartbroken. We translate this second contemporary document in Greek (which was of course the language Paul used) at this point:

"(This is the burial place of) the young Pappion

Give attention and cry out in mourning.

Cry out in mourning for me, O mother.

You who are inflamed with profoundest grief (i.e., heartbroken)!

Cry out in mourning for me, (Pappion), who is only 27 years old.

Grant me mourning, everyone!"

For the inscription, see J. -B. Frey, *Corpus Inscriptionum Judaicarum* (Rome: Pontifical Bibl. Institute for Christian Archaeology, 1952). Vol. I; pp. 415-416, no. 1507; cf. H. Leitzmann, in *Zeitschrift für die neuentastamentliche Wissenschaft*, no. 22 (1923), p. 282. Since pagans often cremated, Leitzmann misinterpreted the "burning" referred to as belonging to such rites, and thought this inscription indicated that these parents had cremated their child. But such a practice is out of place in a Jewish historical context, since Jews did not cremate!

J. -B. Frey, *Ibid.*, 429-430, no. 1522.

Here one visualizes the combined despair, depression, and agony of heart which mothers and fathers are plunged into over the loss of their precious children or tiny infants. Paul is

saying that he agonized in this manner when even the weakest or least-esteemed church member suffered any type of reverse or pain — like parents would in the loss of a precious and helpless child.

Here we see, if it has not been clear before, a beautiful spirit of sympathy, compassion, and tenderhearted concern present in Paul's life. We have more definitely known of this same characteristic of loving sympathy as it was manifest in Jesus' life (see John 11:35). It does us well to realize, however, that deep concern for the welfare of fellow believers was a quality that was present in Paul's life in high degree also, and it largely accounted for his remarkable effectiveness in winning people to Christ.

Today's ministers do well to ask God to endow them with love, and fill their lives with this same kind of "burning" concern. Tragedy strikes everywhere and church members are no exception to the rule. As an interim pastor I have discovered here and there (99 and 44/100ths percent of our pastors are not guilty!) a poor record as far as home visitations, and even hospital visitations, are concerned on the part of some of our Baptist ministers. "These things ought not to be!" By learning a lesson straight from the great heart of Paul, we will understand better why those members of the churches he served loved him and were committed to him with such undying devotion (Acts 20:37; Philippians 4:10-18, etc.). It is obvious from the passage we have just discussed that Paul truly had care and concern for those with whom he came in contact.

Letters To The Editor

Preacher's Kid Expresses Appreciation

Dear Don:

Many tributes to my father have been written recently, but today I would like to express my gratitude for being Joe Odle's daughter.

In all the years of his life, he was never a disappointment to me. Daddy practiced what he preached. Consistent Christian living was the story of his life.

It was not easy to grow up living in a "glass house." There were many things I could not do because I was a "preacher's kid." But it was worth it to give up some things in order not to hurt my father's ministry or the cause of Jesus Christ. Daddy taught us that "if meat offend my brother, I will eat no meat."

He taught us that the key to living was to trust God — not leaning on our own understanding, but acknowledging Him in all our ways — and He would direct our paths. From childhood he admonished us to look forward to Jesus' second coming, often quoting I John 3:3: "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself. . ."

Yes, we were taught how to live, but we were also taught how to die. When my twenty-year-old brother passed away after a short bout with Hodgkins disease, we found underlined in red in his Bible, Philippians 1:20-21: "So now also shall Christ be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." For daddy to live was Christ; to die was his gain.

And though my family and I are deeply grieved at his passing, we are so thankful God gave him to us and to

Southern Baptists for all these years.

At daddy's funeral, Frank Pollard described Joe Odle as a "gentle giant" who not only took much with him, but left much behind for us. This is my heritage — a treasure "more to be desired than fine gold." To those among your readers who are "preacher's kids," (my pastor, Adrian Rogers, says we should be called GTO's — Great Theologians' Offspring), may I say, "Praise God for the special blessing of being raised in a minister's family."

I shall ever be grateful to the Lord for letting me be this particular great theologian's offspring; and although my family and I will miss him until Jesus comes again, we know that "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

In Christ,
Sarah O. Maddox
(Mrs. Roland)
2342 Holly Grove
Memphis, TN 38138
Jeremiah 29:11-13 NAS

Stamps For Hungry

Please run again the article you had in the Letters to the Editor section of the Baptist Record about six months ago on Liliana Perera and the food for stamps program she is doing in connection with the Salvation Army children's feeding program.

I'm taking part in this program and collecting used postage stamps in my area, but they are not receiving the stamps from Mississippi that they should be receiving, and I think this is a bad reflection on Mississippi Baptists. This program is not a Baptist-sponsored program; but they are not asking for money, they are only asking

for what all of us throw away every time we receive a letter, used postage stamps. As Christians, don't you think Jesus would want us to meet the need in what ever form it may take to help relieve world hunger? And is there a better way to prove our love for our Lord Jesus than to do as He would want us to do?

In your Jan. 17 issue of the Baptist Record, Isaiah 58:10 was quoted (if you give food to the hungry and satisfy those who are in need, then the darkness around you will turn to the brightness of noon). Is there a better way of lighting up the world or a simpler way of helping to stamp out world hunger?

Marion L. Dailey
Kila

The response to the "Food For Stamps" program has been overwhelming. I want to thank all the churches and individuals who are saving used postage stamps to be sold by the Salvation Army, providing meals for hungry people in Bangladesh. The program is on-going. They request that foreign stamps be separated from USA stamps and that a small amount of paper be left around each stamp. Damaged and torn stamps should be discarded. Please mail stamps directly to: Miss Liliana Perera, c/o The Salvation Army, Box 2040, Louisville, Kentucky 40201.

Betty Axtell
Jackson

Baptist Names Needed

I am Paul Glenn, church planter/director of the New Hampshire Southern Baptist ministries. I am interested in locating families and interested individuals in this state through whom new

work may begin. We presently have the fewest churches of Southern Baptist persuasion of any state in the union. The need of the objective of Bold Mission Thrust is probably not any worse anywhere in the United States than in our state. There are only 146 evangelical churches of all persuasions in the whole state that ministers to a population of 840,000 people. That means there are 5,746 prospects per church. Presently, the average membership per evangelical church is less than 100. That means that on any given Sunday morning if every member were in church there would be less than two percent of the state hearing the gospel. For a state that swings the political clout that New Hampshire swings as the first in the nation primary state, we need a lot more gospel-preaching, Bible-believing churches around here. Leadership is the key; and if we can find Bible-believing folks out there somewhere who will follow the Lord's leading in starting new churches, we can help turn back to the Lord, not only New Hampshire, but the whole nation as well. What I need is for each and every Southern Baptist to either contact me personally at 183 Main St., Suncook, New Hampshire 03275 or call (603) 485-8096 or write the name of a friend or relative living in the state on a "Hello Baptist" card and mail it to the Southern Baptist Convention, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37219.

Paul Glenn
Suncook, N. H.

Former Members Search

Editor:

Big Springs Baptist Church (Lincoln County Assn.) is planning to celebrate its 75th Anniversary August 17, 1980.

We are trying to locate all former members and present members who have moved from the area. We are asking all former and/or inactive members to please send us your present address so we can send you more information regarding the anniversary. We hope to have many former members present.

Big Springs Baptist Church
Route 1, Box 162
Brookhaven, MS 39601
Tel. No. 833-0510

Bible Book Series

Editor:

Concerning your answer to the letter on the International Series — I hope you didn't mean that the Bible Book Series will be dropped!

Our whole church has been looking forward to the series since you have begun it.

Certainly, you would not let such a gifted writer as Bro. McComb get away from you. Of course I am not putting down on the other writers — they are excellent too. But Bro. McComb deals with this series in such a learned way, we would hate to part with his services.

William M. Moote, Pastor
Red Creek Union Baptist Church
Ocean Springs

We are still struggling with the problem of what to do about having three series of lessons and whether or not we would be able to present three commentaries on the lessons. At any rate, the commentary writers are related after a six-month stint. Dr. McComb is filling out the period originally begun by Joe Triplett, who passed away recently. All of the writers have been excellent, and we are grateful for their contributions. — Editor

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State Baptist Paper Readers Everywhere All Owe Josie McEachern A Big Debt

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5
Thursday, April 17, 1980

By Anne McWilliams

State Baptist papers, and in fact all Southern Baptists, owe a big debt to a sprightly, blue-eyed white-haired woman who lives in Eupora, Miss., for she was the originator of the Every Family Budget Plan of subscriptions. Because A. L. Goodrich accepted Josie McEachern's idea in 1936, the Baptist Record circulation has grown from 6,000 then to 128,596 now.

Sunflower Church, where Mrs. McEachern was a member in 1936, was the first church to enter the plan. Other Mississippi churches followed Sunflower's example, so that now 1,618 churches are in the Every Family Plan. The other state papers followed the Baptist Record's example.

Her picture was on page 1 of the Feb. 24, 1977 issue of the Record, during the paper's Centennial celebration. After that write-up, she recalls, she got letters from all over the United States.

On March 11, friends helped her celebrate her 90th birthday, with a cake at a restaurant in Eupora. Because of two falls she had last summer at her home, she lives now at Eupora Health Center, Room 20. In the first fall, she hurt one eye, and sometimes still has double vision in it. In the second fall, she hurt her back, and as a

result continues to feel a good bit of pain in her back. Inside the house, she walks without aid, but if she goes out, as to church on Sunday, she relies on a walker or on a 300-year-old cane that belonged to her great-great-grandfather. For a short time she was in a nursing home in Ruleville, which she says was nice, but adds that she is glad to be "back home in Eupora."

"Miss Jo" was born in 1890 at Lodi in Webster County, "where there used to be a large school." Her mother and father, Martha Jane Castle Sorrell and John Sorrell, were the parents of ten children, and Josie is the last living one. At age 13 she accepted Christ and was baptized in Little Black Creek. She finished high school at Eupora and attended Blue Mountain College.

While teaching school in Sunflower in 1916, she met Frank McEachern (pronounced McCann), owner of several stores in Sunflower, and married him in a Eupora wedding. "There was never a better husband on earth," she declares.

After Frank's death in 1956 she moved to Eupora to live with two sisters. At the Sunflower Church she taught intermediates, was WMU president, church treasurer, and served in various other jobs. In Eupora she was director of the Intermediate Depart-

ment until she gave it up at age 75.

She remembers that in 1936 Goodrich was visiting different churches, to promote Baptist Record circulation. At Sunflower, the BR was going to only six families, so Goodrich talked to Higdon, a medical doctor and a deacon, and asked him to visit all the members and enlist support for the paper. Higdon said, "I'll take you to someone who can do that better than I." Goodrich was circulation manager of the Record then. In 1942 he became editor.

So the two went to Mrs. McEachern's house. In answer to Goodrich's request, she said, "I can't visit all the members. I don't even know where all of them live."

"Aren't you a Baptist? a Sunday School teacher? Aren't you interested in your state Baptist paper?"

"Yes, but . . ."

Her daddy, sitting on the porch, spoke up and said, "She can do it. She can do anything she wants to do."

Finally she agreed to talk to the church. The depression was not fully over, and money was still scarce. Some churches had the paper in their budget but paid for it annually. Then the idea hit her, and she said, "Why can't we send the paper to all our families and let the church pay for it by the month, rather than by the year? That way I think we could afford it."

Goodrich was excited by that idea. "That's it! That's great! You have the answer!"

She talked with two other women, Mrs. Flossie Mullen and Mrs. Lula Norris, concerning the idea. Then they presented it to the whole WMU. Since it only would cost the church about a dollar a month, they thought it could be done.

Mrs. McEachern wanted the doctor to present the matter to the church, but he insisted that she do it. "They'll listen to you," he said. So she told the congregation about Goodrich's visit to her house and said, "I've thought of this plan, and I want to know what you people think of it. The Baptist Record would be worth much to the church if we could put it in the budget and send it to all our families, and then pay for it by the month, like we pay the gas bill and the light bill, the janitor, and the pastor." Everybody present voted for it.

Afterward she wrote Goodrich, and told him of the vote and suggested that maybe other churches would like to try the same idea. From then on, the circulation was on its way up.

Some time later Goodrich visited Sunflower Church, and said to Josie McEachern, "Bless your heart!" and pinned on her an orchid corsage. Also



Josie McEachern of Eupora holds a 1977 Centennial edition of the Baptist Record, in which she was featured on page 1.

he presented to the Sunflower Church a plaque stating that it had been the first church to enter the Every Family Budget Plan.

Mrs. McEachern still likes to read the Baptist Record, and books by one of her favorite authors, Norman Vincent Peale. Though she's happy at the Health Center, she said she misses working in the yard of her home, because raising flowers was always one of her hobbies. She recalls that once

when she was working in the yard, against the doctor's orders, her sister rebuked her, but then said, "Oh, well, I guess what Dr. Ozburn doesn't know won't hurt him."

Still, as always, she's a kind friend to all those around her. And she smiles as she remembers her daddy saying once to the Baptist Record circulation manager, "Josie can do it. She can do anything she wants to do."

New Life Springs Up As Result Of MSU Students' Trip To Wisconsin

New life is usually associated with spring and the appearance of green, growing things; however, 13 students from Mississippi State University found "new life" three weeks before the official beginning of spring in the snow-covered landscape of Wisconsin.

These students and their BSU director, Ircel Harrison, went to Wisconsin during their spring break, March 1-8, to help strengthen the work of Baptist Student Unions and their supporting churches in this new convention area. The team was composed of a BSU musical group, "Drawn Together," and five other students who were selected through an application process.

"Drawn Together" did eight concerts during the week: The Sunday morning service at Valley Baptist Church, Appleton; Sunday evening and Wednesday night services at the River Heights Baptist Church in Menomonie; and five concerts on campus at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie. The members of the group also did apartment visitation and one-on-one contacts with students on campus.

The five other students were also involved in personal contacts in Menomonie. The rest of the time one was responsible for an evangelistic booktable at Stout and the other four spent three days at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 25 miles away, helping to start a new BSU.

Members of "Drawn Together" are Beth Cook, Southaven; Dolores Holliman, Caledonia; Chris Burgin, Caledonia; Mark Gregory, Starkville; Doug Houston, Starkville; Steve English, Vicksburg; Jan Gregory, Starkville; and Mike Gregory, Carthage.

Other student members of the team were Karen Burks, Columbus; Mary Lorraine Briscoe, Holly Springs; Karen Grissom, Cleveland, Ohio; Sam Peoples, Webb; and Kelley Simpson, Tupelo.

For all practical purposes, the students working at UW-Eau Claire started from "scratch" in organizing the BSU there. They located a faculty advisor for the new organization, operated an information table, made contacts with a number of students, and held the first BSU meeting at Eau Claire.

Linda Hansen from Green Bay, Wisconsin, is one of the handful of Southern Baptists on the campus. She is the key student in the formation of the new BSU. Tom Butler, a Southern Baptist minister and insurance salesman, is the volunteer BSU director.

Kathleen Evans, a student semester missionary, is the BSU director at Stout and did the advance preparations on that campus. Kathleen, a "missionary kid" from Kenya, has been in Wisconsin since January but has already established good rapport with university officials and students at UW-Stout.

The Mississippi students met and got to know Miles and Jean Lee, the first Missions Service Corps volunteers, who provide pastoral leadership for the River Heights church in Menomonie and the Emmanuel Baptist Chapel in Eau Claire.

What does all this have to do with "new life?" First, one student at Stout found new life in Jesus Christ during the week. He attended the Tuesday night concert on campus and talked with one of the Mississippi students afterward, sharing his doubts and spiritual needs. Still searching he came to the Wednesday evening service at River Heights church. Following the service, two of the Mississippi students talked with him at length, and he prayed to receive Christ as his Savior.

"New Life" is also seen in the response of a Christian student at Stout who wrote these words to the Mississippi Students: "I'm confident that your ministry here this week will bear much fruit in the days to come. Your boldness has given me boldness . . . your songs will remain in my heart so that I will not forget you in my prayers."

The new Baptist student ministry at Eau Claire is "new life" that will complement what is being done on campus by non-denominational and non-Southern Baptist groups there.

As Linda Hansen wrote one of the MSU students, "When I think that there are about 10,000 students attending UW-Eau Claire but less than 500 attending Christian organizations, I just could never give up." She is convinced that BSU can play a vital role in reaching her campus for Christ.

The week was also an experience of new life for the team members. They learned and grew as they shared. John Nance, state director of student work for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Southern Baptist Fellowship, spent a day with the team and made this observation after their week's work: "I believe that I can safely say that you were/are the most effective HELP team we have ever had. Talent is not only music but the compassion and ability to share an effective Christian witness."

Perhaps Miles Lee, pastor at Menomonie and Eau Claire, placed the students' efforts in the proper perspective when he wrote, "We continue to

reap weekly results of your efficient efforts here . . . only eternity can reveal the ultimate accomplishments of your group."



Members of the MSU Wisconsin team pose in the snow in front of River Heights Baptist Church in Menomonie, Wisconsin. They are (from left to right): Mike Gregory, Sam Peoples, Jan Gregory, Mark Gregory, Chris Burgin, Karen Grissom, Dolores Holliman, Ircel Harrison, Mary Lorraine Briscoe, Steve English, Karen Burks, Doug Houston, Beth Cook, and Kelly Simpson.

High Court To Decide Fate Of Hyde Amendment

By Stan Hastey
WASHINGTON (BP) — Acting with unusual swiftness, the U.S. Supreme Court announced here it will confront head-on the controversy over federal Medicaid funding of abortions.

The high court will review a January ruling by federal district court judge John F. Dooling Jr., of Brooklyn, N. Y., which struck down the Hyde amendment forbidding the use of Medicaid money for poor women's abortions.

The court declined to delay implementation of Dooling's decision, a move which had been sought by anti-abortion forces. Three members of the court, Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and associate justices Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist, dissented from the denial.

Named after anti-abortion crusader U.S. Rep. Henry J. Hyde, R-Ill., the Hyde amendment, as passed by Congress last fall, forbids Medicaid funding for abortions except in cases where the life of the mother is at stake or in instances involving proven rape or incest.

At the same time, Congress rejected a third exception involving cases where long and severe physical damage to the mother would likely result if the abortion were not performed. This third exception had been adopted for three prior consecutive years.

Hyde and many other anti-abortion leaders would prefer no exceptions save that of an imminent threat to the mother's life.

Judge Dooling's opinion, running to several hundred pages in length, invalidated the Hyde amendment, based in part on the view that to deny funds to poor women may deprive them of the free exercise of religion.

Dooling disagreed, however, on another religion issue often raised by pro-abortion forces, that the denial of funds amounts to an unconstitutional establishment of religion.

Revival Dates

Second Church, Indianapolis: April 20-25; Harold Savell, pastor Biltmore Church, Asheville, NC and former pastor of Second, Indianapolis, evangelist; George Lipe, Indianapolis, music evangelist; service 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Billy Beckett, pastor.

Highland Church, Crystal Springs: April 20-25; Lay Renewal Weekend; Friday, 6:30 p.m., covered dish supper followed by general session; Sat. morning coffee at 10; Sat. night, covered dish supper at 6 followed by general session; Sunday school at 9:45 Sunday, led by lay renewal team; J. T. Gilbert, lay renewal coordinator; James Griffith, pastor; Charles Gibson, minister of music.

Allen To Address Israeli Lawmakers

JERUSALEM, Israel (BP) — Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, has been invited to speak to Israeli lawmakers to discuss a proposed law regarding human rights. Allen will appear before the Israeli parliament's Constitution Law and Justice Committee during hearings May 19 and 21 on "freedom of religion," one of the subjects included in the proposed legislation.

In extending the invitation, Committee Chairman David Glass said he knew Allen and Baptist congregations had a "keen interest" in the subject. Glass said he believed Allen's partici-

pation in the discussions "would contribute to a better understanding of the various views regarding this important and delicate subject."

Allen had visited Israel in December 1976, as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, to discuss with government leaders a controversial Israeli law that makes it illegal to offer or receive material inducements or other benefits to change religions. Baptists and other Christian leaders in the United States and Israel strongly oppose the law, fearing it may be interpreted to rule out the right of evangelical Christians to witness for their faith.

Baptist Student Workers Told

"Half Of Africa Is Under Age 20"

LOME, Togo — More than half the African population is under the age of 20 and a staggering number of these young people don't know Christ, Baptist student workers were told recently in Lome, Togo.

With such statistics, Billy Bullington, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's field representative for West Africa, opened the first All-Africa student ministries conference by stressing the importance of reaching students with the gospel message.

Under Bullington's direction, 27 participants from 14 African countries focused on three areas of student ministry: evangelism and discipleship training on an African campus, the relation of student ministry to the establishment and development of churches, and the needs of the African family.

"One of the major challenges of our work is to encourage students to make a decision and to commit themselves to Christ through a local church and to challenge them to become effective leaders within the church," said stu-

dent worker Danny Stampley, a Southern Baptist missionary in Accra, Ghana.

Foreign Mission Board staffer Davis Saunders and John E. Mills reinforced her statement and challenged student workers to develop a close relationship between their student ministries and the national churches. Saunders is secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa and Mills is secretary for West Africa.

"Strong churches cannot be built upon weak families," said Rex Holt Jr., student worker and Southern Baptist missionary in Lome, addressing the relationship between evangelism and the family. "If the evangelism and discipling process do not penetrate the family, the work is shallow."

(Danny Stampley is a single female missionary. She is a native of Benton, Miss., attended Hinds Jr. College and is a graduate of Mississippi College. She was elementary director at First Church, Jackson, 1960-61, and was appointed in 1968.)

Mercer Medical School Proceeds Under Review

MACON, Ga. (BP) — Mercer University trustees have voted to proceed with plans to start a medical school in Macon, Ga., but approved stringent restrictions to guarantee the university won't be jeopardized by any financial problems the medical school might incur.

President R. Kirby Godsey told trustees that he foresees a balanced budget for the medical school for the 1980-81 and 1981-82 academic years. But after that, he expects the medical school to encounter a budget deficit of at least \$2 million per year through 1985.

The Macon-Bibb County Hospital Authority will build a medical school classroom building on Mercer land deeded it by the trustees.

Trustees also approved Godsey's recommendations that the Middle Georgia community be given major responsibility for providing the "shortfall" needed to balance medical school budgets after 1982.

And, they told the medical authority that Godsey and Mercer trustees will have authority to close the school at any time they feel funds are not in sight for a balanced budget.

And, if that time should come, Mercer University would have first option on reacquiring the property and

building used by the medical school. Godsey told reporters at a press conference in Macon, "Mercer is committed to responding to the people of Macon who have expressed a desire for a medical school. But, Mercer is not able to handle such a project alone."

People of Macon and Middle Georgia simply must provide the shortfall needed to balance the budget."

Macon has talked of a medical school for about 10 years. Initial requests came from Middle Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Mercer agreed to work with civic and medical leaders to develop the school.

Contracts were to be signed last week to build the medical school building adjacent to the Mercer campus in Macon. It will cost over \$4 million. Target date for the first student to enter is the fall of 1981.

Macon voters approved a \$7 million bond issue for the medical school several years ago. The state of Georgia has allocated \$5 million for the school. And medical school backers have raised about \$1.7 million in gifts and pledges.

The miser is a riddle: what he possesses he has not, and what he leaves behind him he never had. — H. W. Shaw

MC Maintenance Building To Be Named For Laney Lanier

The maintenance building at Mississippi College will become the Laney M. Lanier Physical Plant Building following action by the College's Board of Trustees in a recent meeting.

Dedication ceremonies are planned for Friday, April 25, at 1:30 p.m. officially designating the building in honor of Laney M. Lanier of Clinton, former business manager of the college and a longtime community leader.

Lewis Nobles, president of the college, will preside at the building naming ceremony. Others taking part on the program will include Howard E.

Spell, academic dean emeritus; David Grant, pastor of Broadmoor Church in Jackson and vice-president of the Board of Trustees; Joe Barber, vice-president for business affairs; and Lanier. Tours of the building and a reception will follow the ceremony.

Lanier, now retired as business manager, is currently manager of the Mississippi College Credit Union, with offices located in the building which will soon carry his name. He was instrumental in the construction of the building and for the revamping of the maintenance operations at the college.

The building, dedicated in October of 1970, brought all facets of the physical plant operation under one roof for the first time. Labeled as one of the most modern physical plant buildings

in the state, the Mississippi College facility not only houses physical operations and warehouse facilities, but is also the home of the campus security and the campus-wide telephone exchange.

A native of Daleville, Ala., Lanier received the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi College in 1956. He has done additional study at Mississippi College and at the University of Omaha. He became business manager of the College in 1953 and remained in that position for 20 years, retiring in 1973.

Lanier is a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Clinton.

Lanier is married to the former Gertrude White of Magee and they have a son, Lauren, and a daughter, Rebecca Lanier Kohr.

Mission Conference Participation Is Up

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — World missions conferences were conducted in 3,389 Southern Baptist churches in 1979, attracting 1,082,060 persons.

James Hatley, director of the world missions conference department at the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, said attendance was up more than 35,000 over 1978.

The four or eight day conferences were "inspirational overviews of the world missions program," according to Hatley. Each participating church hears two foreign, two home and one state convention missionary tell of his work.

During the conferences, 520 persons made professions of faith, up 149. Another 463 volunteered for mission service. Conferees gave \$625,823 to missions during the conferences.

Participating in the conferences were 887 foreign missionaries, 814 home missionaries, and 531 state missionaries.

States with highest attendance at the conferences were Tennessee, 154,269; North Carolina, 142,464; Florida, 126,221; and Virginia, 115,011.

The 1,196 associations in the denomination get an opportunity about every five years to host world missions conferences, Hatley said.



Speakers and coordinators of the 20th annual Pastoral Care of the Ill Seminar included (pictured left to right) J. Clark Hensley, executive director of the Christian Action Commission; Richard Nowell, a member of the MBMC medical staff; John Claypool, pastor of Northminster Church, Jackson; and Gordon Shamburger, director of pastoral care at Baptist Medical Center.

80 Attend Seminar For Pastoral Care Of Ill

More than 80 ministers and laypersons of several denominations attended the 20th annual Pastoral Care of the Ill Seminar recently presented by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

John Claypool, minister of Northminster Church, Jackson, presented three topics concerning "Creative Living: The Ministry to the Terminally Ill and Dying."

In his lectures, Claypool outlined to the audience several ways ministers could help the dying patient and his family creatively handle death "to make them better persons, instead of reactively handling death which can make us bitter."

Richard Nowell, a member of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center medical staff, also spoke and emphasized the importance of ministers lending support to the hospitals' nurses and staff, as well as to the patient and family members.

A videotape was made of the four-hour presentation, and anyone interested in obtaining the tape should contact Chaplain Gordon Shamburger, MBMC director of pastoral care, at 968-5135, MBMC, 1225 North State Street, Jackson, 39201.

Trenton, N. J. (EP) — The Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court has rejected a bid by Paul Marsa, a Metuchen, N. J., businessman and avowed atheist, to have the moment of prayer or meditation before city council meetings declared unconstitutional. Marsa said he will appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary. His suit was financed in part by the Society of American Atheists, headed by Madalyn Murray O'Hair. Mrs. O'Hair said she will support the appeal.

Revival Results

Crowder Church; one addition by letter; 17 by baptism; A. M. "Sonny" Moore, Ruleville, preacher; C. A. Southerland, Crowder, music director; Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.



Singing Churchmen Will Give May 1 Concert In Hattiesburg

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen will appear in concert on Thursday night, May 1, at 7:30 p.m., at First Church, Hattiesburg.

The concert will include several numbers by the men, with John Morgan, dean of the School of Music at William Carey College, as guest director and Jimmy Cutrell, minister of music at First Church, Gulfport, as accompanist.

Also the concert will present Churchmen Bells, directed by Truitt Roberts, minister of music at First Church, Starkville, and Churchmen Brass, directed by Michael Burt, minister of music, West Laurel Church, Laurel.

The event is being sponsored by the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Jim Hayes is minister of music at the host church.

Video tapes will be made of the group, performing for local television programming.

Officers of the Singing Churchmen are: Perry Robinson, president; George McFadin, vice president (president elect); Agnes Batson, secretary-treasurer; Dan C. Hall, choral director (ex-officio); and area directors, Rick Munn, North; Farley Earnest, Central; and Louis Nicolosi, South.

Membership is open to all men who are responsible for leading their churches, college music faculty members, denominational music workers, and others who lend professional assistance to the cause of church music. Annual membership fee of \$5 is due and payable by Jan. 1 each year. New members may join at any time. Contact Church Music Department, Box 530, Jackson 39205.



Clarke Choir To Sing At Raymond Road

The Clarke College Choir, under direction of Clark Adams, will be in sacred concert on April 18, at 7 p.m. at Raymond Road Church, Jackson, Dan Watts, pastor. The 40-member choir is in the midst of a spring tour which will take them to churches, schools and other institutions throughout the south.

First, Clinton, To Hold Open House

First Church, Clinton, Bill Baker, pastor, will hold an open house for its newly completed educational building on Sunday, April 20, from 3 to 6 p.m. The dedication of the building will take place in the morning worship services, on that day.

The total project cost almost \$1.4 million and included extensive renovation of the existing education building, as well as construction of the new building. The renovation involved the nursery, the Media Center, the offices, a Leadership Training Center, and a college department. Features in the new building are preschool / kindergarten rooms, children's departments, music suite, adult facilities, and a fellowship hall and kitchen.

A new activities building is expected to be completed in mid-May. The current construction program represents phases I and II of a master plan that will eventually include a new sanctuary. A major portion of the cost has been borne by the congregation, with a \$602,000 Together We Build pledge and an \$85,000 Miracle Day offering received last July. Members and friends are invited to the open house.

Easthaven Begins Ministry To The Deaf

Mary and Randy Laird, a young deaf couple, recently joined Easthaven Church in Brookhaven. Through a desire of the members to communicate with them, sign language classes were begun.

The classes meet each Wednesday evening after prayer meeting, with between 25 and 30 people ranging from children to senior adults participating. With the help of the Lairds, members of Easthaven are beginning to communicate with them. Some members are now able to interpret the worship services for them.

"This new ministry has formed warm friendships and a strong bond in Christ," stated Ernest Sadler, pastor. "It is the hope of participants in this effort that other deaf couples will become a part of this church that cares and wants to share," he added.

Van Winkle Senior Adults Will Go On Cruise To Bahamas

A group of senior adults from Van Winkle Church, Jackson, left April 13 for a five-day cruise to Nassau in the Bahamas.

Mrs. Polly Morrow will lead the group. Senior adults going are Mrs. Lela Weatherall, Mrs. Evelyn Fortenberry, Mrs. Minnie Wright, Mrs. Audell Eastham, Mrs. Ryvers Starnes, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Norton. On the return they will spend a night in Miami and get back to Jackson April 19.

Sumrall To Celebrate 75th Year

First Church, Sumrall, will celebrate its 75th anniversary the week of June 22-29.

On June 22, 1905, J. E. Davis of Rawls Springs and J. P. Culpepper of Poplarville went to the new saw mill town of Sumrall and preached through the following week. On June 29, which was fifth Sunday, they led in the organization of the Sumrall Baptist Church.

This year the fourth and fifth Sundays fall on the same calendar dates as in 1905, and the church is planning a homecoming revival, June 22-29.

There are nine living former pastors. T. F. Cooper is unable to come back, but the other eight have agreed to preach. They are N. J. Lee, June 22 at 11 a.m.; Troy Sumrall, June 22 at 7 p.m.; Don Nerrin, June 23 at 7 p.m.; E. C. Farr, Tuesday at 7 p.m.; Harold Bryson, Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Charles Taylor, Thursday at 7 p.m.; George Berger Friday at 7 p.m.; George Horn, Sunday, June 29, 11 a.m. "Dinner on the grounds" will be served June 29 at 12 noon.

Ed Hamilton is the current pastor.

CLASSIFIED

TOUR — Join group of Christians for vacation trip to Hawaii. Chartered plane from New Orleans July 22. Lewis Fitts, Tallwood Baptist Church, 555 Tallwood, Houston, Texas 77024.

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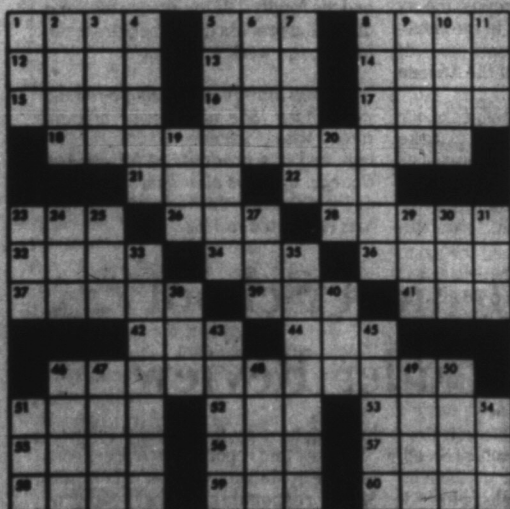
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57 Cross word (Mark 15:34)
58 Descendant of Benjamin (1 Chron. 7:12)
59 Roman bronze
60 Part of a chair

DOWN

1 "Prepare —" (Joel 3)
2 Duke (Gen. 36:43)
3 Large room
4 "from the house of —" (Amos 1:9; poss.)
5 Sweep or stack
6 Roof part
7 Noah's grandson (Gen. 10:22; poss.)
8 Freedom
9 Esau's grandson (Gen. 36:11)
10 Tattlers
11 Decimeters: abbr.
12 Longing
13 Honey maker
14 "to the — first" (Rom. 1)
15 State: abbr.
16 The sesame
17 Compact mass
18 Kind of iron (1 Tim. 4:2)
19 Member of Assam hill tribe
20 Beak
21 False tale
22 "Jews sent priests and —" (John 1)
23 Secret agent
24 Rest
25 Horse or soap
26 Sackcloth's complement
27 Corrupter (Matt. 6:19)
28 Pay up
29 Calculate
30 Old wives' —
31 Portico
32 Soup or jacket
33 Strike

ACROSS

1 Kind of master-builder (1 Cor. 3:10)
2 Letter
3 He is of tender mercy (Jer. 9:11)
4 Cannibal (Num. 21:1)
5 Man's nickname
6 Mosquito leader
7 Long sound
8 March elder
9 "provide yourselves —" (Luke 13)
10 "and hath —" (1 Cor. 13)
11 Member of congress: abbr.
12 Minister's forte: abbr.
13 Title's partner (Matt. 6:18)
14 Deal
15 The Ezraite (1 Ki. 4:31)
16 Goddess of discord
17 Late-like instrument
18 "with the — of bondage" (Gal. 5)
19 Without water (2 Pet. 2:17)
20 Dover is its capital: abbr.
21 Label
22 Serviceman's mailing address: abbr.
23 — Dolores
24 "they truly were —" (Heb. 7)
25 Small body of water
26 "And their word will —" (2 Tim. 2)
27 Biblical verb
28 Small one: suffix
29 Way: abbr.

CRYPTOVERSE

SUJNODZE OK LFG WDX JIX
UOSFLGDEK

Today's Cryptoverse clue: S equals G

(Answers on page 7)

Northeast JC BSU Sends Teams To Florida, Ohio

By Lannie Hill, Student, NEMJC

Learning to reach out to others is one of the greatest experiences a Christian can have. Recently several members of the Baptist Student Union from Northeast Mississippi Junior College, Booneville, encountered a true period of Christian growth in student missions. Two groups were sent on mission trips March 8-16, one to Daytona Beach, Fla., and one to towns in Ohio.

The group that went to Florida, led by Joe Cobb, Baptist Student Union director, and his wife Rose, presented Christ in personal testimony and on the basis of God's Word. Each day began with Bible study, witness training, and prayer. In the afternoons, the student missionaries began their beach ministry by approaching others, starting conversation, and

It is proper that alms should come out of a little purse, as well as a great sack. — Owen Feltham

sharing their personal testimony. They asked if the person had ever had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; if not, the students showed them how they could have a personal experience with him. The average student witnessed to about 25 people during the week. The group met many Christians on the beach and were able to express to others God's love for them.

The mission group in Ohio, under direction of Larry Wimberly, student, was involved in diversified fields of service, ranging from painting church buildings to surveying for local churches. Upon arrival in Columbus, the students attended an orientation led by Bill Reid, regional director of the Columbus area. After this, the group split into teams of three or four members each. Although their scope of service was broad, their chief objective was to bring into unity the members of local churches and to testify to unchurched people.

Names In The News . . .

Howard Aultman, evangelist, of Columbia, recently had surgery at Oschner's Foundation Hospital, New Orleans, for the removal of polyps that had formed on his vocal cords. The polyps were not malignant, and Aultman has been recuperating in Columbia. He resumed his revival schedule April 13. He wanted to thank Record readers for all your cards, letters, telephone calls, and most of all, your prayers that sustained him through this time.

Mrs. Jane Roasco Goosby of Scott County celebrated her 94th birthday Nov. 8, 1979. Friends and family (who call her Granny) helped her celebrate with dinner and birthday cake. Mrs. Goosby lives with a daughter, Miss Iva Goosby; another of her daughters, Mrs. Eva Lewis, lives across the street. She and these two daughters are members of Providence Baptist Church, Harry Gipson, pastor. She has seven children, 24 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. Though Mrs. Goosby's health does not allow her to attend church services as regularly as she once did, she is still faithful with her love, and her tithes and offerings.

W. A. Whitten, father of Charles W. Whitten, missionary to the Canary Islands, died March 23 in Weir, Miss. Missionary Whitten may be addressed at La Torna, 2, Apt. 4, TAFIRA, ALTA (Las Palmas), Canary Islands, Spain. He is a native of Weir, and his wife is the former Nella Dean Mitchell of Louisville, Miss. They were ap-

pointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1947. They were in the States three weeks, following the death of his father.

Kelvy Miller, in his mid-90's (pictured) and his wife are Baptist Record readers who live at the Eupora Health Center at Eupora. They have been married 69 years. She was 90 on April 10. They receive the Baptist Record from First Baptist Church, Eupora, and listen to the pastor, William S. Stewart, preach on the radio. Miller said, "I was born again about 20 years ago."

Thomas J. Dawson was licensed to the gospel ministry by New Zion Church, Mississippi Association, Liberty, on March 16. He is an ordained deacon and has served as Sunday School director, Sunday School teacher, and choir director. He is a retired Air Force reservist with the rank of major.

Dawson's secular work has been in the field of education. His 18 years of teaching school have included elementary and high school grade levels. He served as principal in three different schools.

Dawson and his wife, Bobbie, reside

Just For The Record . . .



LAYMAN'S DAY AT HERNANDO CHURCH featured on program, left to right: W. E. Corkern, pastor; Mike Riley, RA of the Year; Bob Tyler, lay speaker; and Ron Heimbach, Brotherhood Layman of the Year.



THE FOUR AND FIVE YEAR OLD CHOIR AT FIRST, GULFPORT recently presented the musical, "Jesus and the Disciples," at prayer meeting service. Pictured on the front row are Joel Smith, Jeff Patton, Josh Caudill, Edmond Salloum, Tracy Pippin, and Kristin Keith. Back row: Amy Fletcher, Mitzi Bond, Alisha Westbrook, Julie Simmons, Virginia Mabry, and Anne Hewes. The choir directors are Jan Simmons and Bebe Sikes.



Those from Northeast Mississippi Junior College who went on a mission trip to Daytona Beach, Fla., in March were, left to right: Joe Cobb, BSU director, Susan Parker, Greg Davis, Michael Gilreath, Diana Dunlap, Lydia Ellis, and Donnie Matthews, students. Also included were Tommy Wofford, Maria DeVaughn, and Rose Cobb.



NEMJC BSU teams that served in Ohio were: Larry Wimberly, Sherri Rowell, Donald McKinney at Reynoldsburg; Lannie Hill, Debby Christensen, Sherri Jones, and Terry Hendrix at Crooksville; Elizabeth Thummond, Lissa Gamble, Paul Wright at New Concord; David Bennett, Kathy McElroy, Marchelle Royce, Kay Chandler at German Village; Steve Bennett, Stephanie Sanders, June Chase, at Capital University; and Don Caldwell, Lisa Cox, Abbie Grimes at Philo. Left to right are David Bennett, Paul Wright, Larry Wimberly, Sherri Jones, Lannie Hill, Abbie Grimes, Lissa Gamble.

at Route 3, Liberty, Miss. 39645. He is available for supply, interim or full time pastorate. He may be reached at the above address or by telephone (601) 657-4653.

W. G. Dowdy, Jr. and his wife have announced the birth of a daughter, Kathryn Naomi ("Katie"), born at 7:48 a.m., April 2, at Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg. The baby weighed 7 lb. 1 oz. She has one sister, Rebekah Eileen. Dowdy is pastor of Overt Church, Jones Association.

Ruschlikon, Switzerland — In a special morning service at the Baptist church, co-pastors Emanuel and Ilse Wieser baptized four children of three Seminary faculty families: David Balenger, Christina Lorenzen, and Michael and Tibor Mallau. On the previous Sunday they had made statements of their faith before the church. After the baptismal service the congregation gathered in the seminary dining hall for a fellowship dinner. (EBPS).

James A. Watson, minister of music at First Church, Picayune, has been named national chairman, and Larry Black, minister of music at First Church, Jackson, has been named president-elect of the New Orleans Seminary Music Alumni.

Leaf River Church, Covington County, will hold Senior Citizens' Day on Sunday, April 20. Jimmy Collins is pastor. Mrs. Walter Speed states, "All former pastors and seniors have a special invitation. Every one is invited to join us in morning worship service and for fellowship through lunch hour at the church."

Easthaven Reaches Annie Armstrong Goal First Day

Members of Easthaven Church, Brookhaven were challenged by the pastor, Ernest Sadler, to "Sponsor For Missions" one state of the United States by pledging to give to missions 30 cents for each missionary serving in that state. At the conclusion of services that day each state had a sponsor, with some members having pledged as much as \$92.10 to sponsor the state of Texas, and as little as \$1.20 for the state of Delaware.

As the home missions emphasis was concluded on March 30, the church goal of \$829.20 had been surpassed by \$329.94; with the members of Easthaven having given \$1159.14 to home missions through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Mrs. Roderick Irwin is WMU Director.

BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

W	I	S	E	C	E	E	L	O	R
A	R	A	D	N	A	L	I	M	A
R	A	L	E	I	V	A	B	A	G
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"Gracious is the Lord, and righteous" (Psa. 116:5).

Illinois Church Starts Services For Laotians

ROCKFORD, Ill. (BP) — The Valley Baptist Church here has helped to resettle a family of 11 Laotian refugees and has also started Sunday services for them in their own language.

Pastor George W. Kimball said a total of 33 Laotians attended the first worship service, which met downstairs while regular services for Valley members were conducted in the sanctuary.

The Laotian service, led by Lao Vang, 30, was in their native language. A brother, Tou Fou, taught a Sunday School class for adults and teenagers, attended by 15 Laotians. Their children attended regular classes of their own age group.

Lao Vang, who has been in the States for about five years, lives in Rochelle, Ill. Another brother, Joshua Vang, is a staff member of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, working with refugees.

Homecomings

Silver Springs Church, Oakla., will observe homecoming on Sunday, April 27. Morning worship at 11 a.m. will be followed by dinner on the grounds and a special music service. Jewell Wood, pastor of Briarwood Church, Meridian, will be guest preacher. Wood is a Waltham County native and a former pastor at Silver Springs. J. M. Thornhill is the pastor.

Crowder Church will observe homecoming on April 27 with Charles Stubblefield, pastor of Ecru Church and former pastor at Crowder, preaching.

A Sunday School attendance goal of 240 has been set. C. A. Southerland, music/youth director at Crowder, will lead the music. Lunch will be served. All interested persons are invited, according to Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.

Staff Changes

Barry Webster is the new pastor of Fellowship Church, Pike County. He is a student at New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife Sarah have three sons living at home.

Hickory Church, Hickory, has called Glenn Wiley Abel as pastor. Abel, a native of Belzoni, holds a B.A. from Mississippi College, and will receive his Doctor of Divinity degree in later summer from the Golden Gate Theological Seminary, San Francisco, Calif. Abel and wife, the former Ann Kent from Greenwood, moved from Dean Forest Church, Savannah, Ga. to begin their work April 13.

First Church, Starkville has elected Jay Chance as lay minister of its mission chapel, to serve until the end of May, when the church will determine future directions of the chapel ministry. Chance is assistant director of the Southern Rural Development Center at Mississippi State University. He was formerly national director of Royal Ambassadors, Brotherhood, SBC.

Bob Rogers, student at Mississippi College is the new minister of music and youth at Woodville.

Jim Young is the new minister of music at Liberty.

Russ Stephens has resigned the pastorate at Oak Grove, Mississippi Association.

Harmony Church, Winston County, has called Benny Buckley as pastor. He has moved there from Oktibeha County.

Ansel Mote, the new minister of music and youth at Tangipahoa Church, Pike County, was a member at Navilla prior to accepting this staff position. He succeeds Ken Hedgepeth, who recently resigned.

Jim Thrash has resigned the pastorate of the Lizana Church, Gulf Coast, to re-enlist as a pilot in the USAF. The church honored him with special services on March 13.

Roy Gaskins, a student at Blue Mountain College, is the new pastor of Midway Church, Pontotoc County. He and his wife are from Georgia.

Andy Gore has resigned as pastor of the Liberty Church, Pontotoc County. He moved to Memphis April 1.

Paul Bird began his tenure as minister of music at Westwood Church, Meridian, on March 23. He is from Sicily Island, La., and is married to the former Margie Wade. He is a graduate of Mississippi College. From New Orleans Seminary he received a Bachelor of Church Music degree. He was ordained to the ministry January, 1963, and has served churches full time in Florida and Louisiana; and part-time in Mississippi and Louisiana. These include Mt. Horeb and Highland in the Lauderdale Association. W. Buford Urry is pastor at Westwood.

Revival Dates

Parkway, Kosciusko: April 20-25; Gene Henderson, Fairview, Columbus, evangelist; Bob Waldrop, music-youth director at Fairview, Columbus, revival music; Bobby Smith, pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; during week at 12 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Forrest Avenue Church, Biloxi: April 20-23; services Sun-Wed. at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; James W. Haynes, Jr., Emmanuel Church, Ocean Springs, evangelist; Roger Haynes of Emmanuel Church, Biloxi, music director; Jim Haynes, Sr., pastor.

First Church, Crystal Springs: April 20-23; services Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Monday - Wednesday at 7 p.m.; L. Wayne McCullar, pastor, preaching; the Sharretts, special music guests.

Temple Church, Jackson: April 27-May 2; Sunday worship services 10:30 a.m., and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7:30 p.m.; Grant Smith, pastor of First Church, Citronelle, Ala., evangelist; music under direction of Mike Fiddler, minister of music; Thomas Ayo, pastor.

Gulf Gardens Church, Gulfport: April 20-25; John Wade of Corbin, Ky., evangelist, (formerly pastor of Pass Road, Gulfport); Jim Gregg of Gulf Gardens, music director; James D. Whittington, pastor.

Iuka Church: April 20-23; regular Sunday services; services week nights 7; Lewis Sewell, pastor, First Church, Oxford, evangelist; Mike Burt, minister of music, West Laurel Church, Laurel, singer; Charles Dampier, pastor.

Webb Church, Webb: April 27-30; James Fancher, evangelist; Paul Padgett, singer; Mrs. Herbert Moore, organist; Mrs. W. C. Vinson, pianist; services each evening at 7:30; at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday; M. Lee Ferrell, pastor.

Easthaven, Brookhaven (Lincoln): April 18-20; evening services at 7; Sunday morning service at 10:45; Harold Bryson of New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Ernest Sadler, pastor.

Waxhaw Church: May 5-9; services at 7:30 p.m.; H. V. Hardin, pastor of Trinity Church, Rosedale, evangelist; E. V. Snyder, pastor.

Mt. Zion Church (Pike); April 20-25; 7:00 p.m. J. D. Nazary, pastor of Colonial Hills Church, Southaven, evangelist; Jim Thornhill, pastor of Silver Springs Church, Progress, music director; James Barrentine, pastor.

Yale Street, Cleveland: April 20-25; David Kendall; Huntsville, Ala., evangelist; William Shaw, minister of music at Yale Street, director of music; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 7 p.m.; Lawrence Runnels, pastor.

Cleary Church, Florence: April 26-28; Wallace A. C. Williams, pastor Wilton Baptist Church, Wilton, Conn. and president of New York Baptist Convention, evangelist; Ronnie McCall, minister of music McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, music evangelist; Sunday services 10:45 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., weekday services 7:30 p.m.; Tim Williams, pastor.

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Thursday, April 17, 1980

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Four Languages In One Church

Missions Becomes Personal For San Francisco Church

By Mark Sandlin
SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — In Vietnam she attended Bible studies conducted by a Southern Baptist missionary, so when she arrived in the United States and saw the blue-and-white sign of 19th Avenue Baptist Church she knew that she could find help within.

"Our Vietnamese mission started from our contact with that one refugee lady. Through her we discovered the tremendous needs of refugees coming to the United States from Vietnam," said Bill Smith, pastor.

The mission for Vietnamese refugees was begun at 19th Avenue when another mission and two different language congregations were already meeting in the church facility.

Besides the Vietnamese mission, 19th Avenue includes a Japanese mission and has an English-speaking congregation and a Chinese congregation.

Founded 21 years ago as a mission, 19th Avenue is situated in a multi-cultural area of San Francisco. "Almost all the people who attend church here live in the neighborhood," Smith said.

The multi-cultural congregations began 12 years ago with the Chinese.

"The Chinese congregation currently has plans to move into a building of their own but extremely high land prices have restricted their plans to move until recently. Their pastor Henry Ma, has been with them the entire 12 years," he said.

Beyond occasional problems in scheduling, the operation of the church flows smoothly because "we have been at it so long."

Communication among individuals of the different congregations is sometimes difficult because of the language problems. "We do as much together as

we can within the limitations of the language barrier. The missions committee plans activities in which everyone can participate in order to increase communication among the congregations," said Smith.

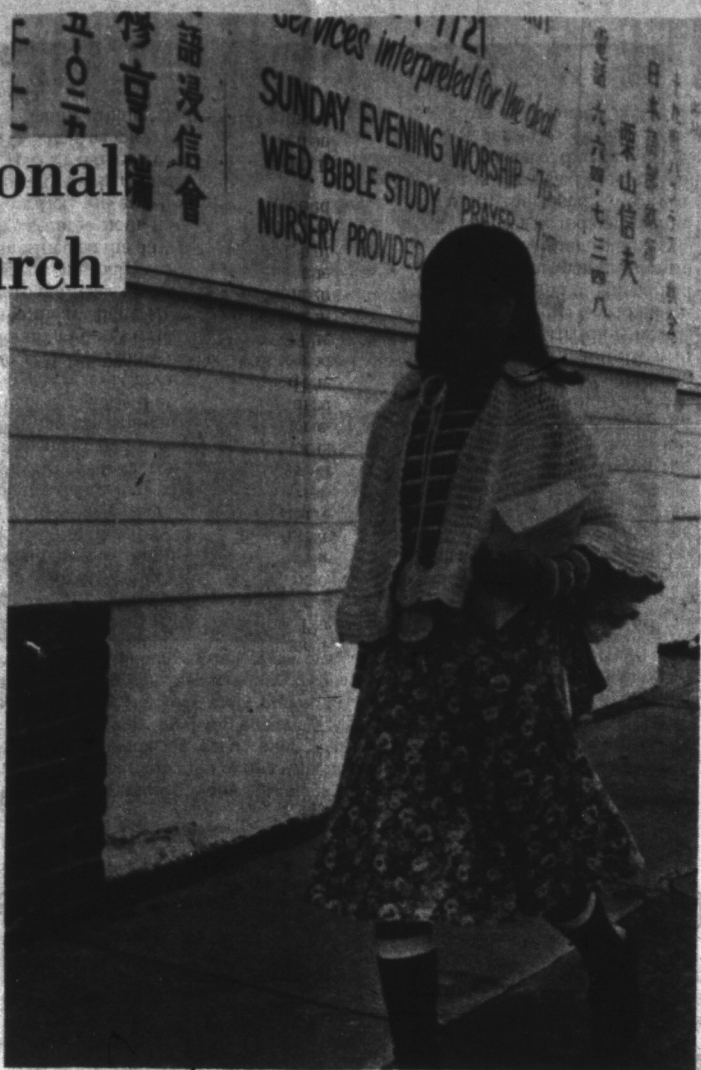
"We try and have some type of activity together at least once a quarter. Regularly we have cleanup days at the church when everyone pitches in to clean and fix up the building. We also share joint baptism services and the smaller congregations have the Lord's supper together," he noted.

One problem that the non-English congregations face is obtaining literature. The Chinese congregation orders its literature from a Southern Baptist publisher in Hong Kong. The Vietnamese are provided Bibles by the Gideons but literature in Vietnamese is nonexistent.

Hanh Nguyen, a Vietnamese student at nearby Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, translates much of the literature the mission uses, a slow and tedious process. Nguyen also makes all the posters and translates the songs for the children's classes.

In ministering to the Vietnamese, the members of 19th Avenue found that in addition to clothing and housing needs they also needed to learn the customs and language. So every Sunday afternoon they hold English language classes. In groups and one-to-one, members of the English speaking congregations help members of the missions learn ordinary things such as how to order a milk shake, mail a letter or apply for a driver's license.

The sharing of the church building and of their respective cultures has been mutually beneficial to the church members, according to Smith.



Sunday morning begins with a yawn for this young lady on her way to church. (Photo by Mark Sandlin.)

"The interactions between the congregations leads to a natural openness and appreciation for another culture," he said.

"Helping other people makes missions more personal. It makes you care more and brings the problems that other people face into a personal perspective," Smith said.

Oh, Miracle Of Spring!

The brooklet from its icy dome is free,
Dashing and dancing, it sings with glee.
Barren trees in winter's hold,
Whispering winds their message told
Chartreuse lace on twig and bough.
Oh! Miracle of Spring, whence cometh thou?

Happy children laugh and sing,
Returning birds are on the wing,
Wind-tossed clouds go racing by,

Diamonds at night stud the sky.
Winter's icy blasts before thee bow.
Oh! Miracle of Spring, how cometh thou?

Snow-covered meadows are now lush and green;
Springtime flowers in the valley are seen
Bees are humming in the air,
Seeking nectar everywhere.
Nature's pageantry renewing its vow—
Oh! Miracle of Spring! It cometh now
—Cleone W. Lendley

Bible Book Series

Provisions For Cleansing

By J. Roy McComb, Pastor,
First, Columbia
Leviticus 11:1-17:16

This rather lengthy section of the book of Leviticus provides information relative to ceremonial defilement and cleansing.

I. METHODS OF CLEANSING AFTER DEFILEMENT (11:1-15:33)

1. **Cleansing from Animals (11:1-47).** This section of Leviticus declares as clean and unclean certain types of animals. There have been reasons suggested for these animals to be declared clean and unclean. One would be hygienic reason. A second would be a religious reason. A third would be the Old Testament instruction to Israel concerning the blood and the life. Fourth, the Lord would teach Israel to distinguish himself from other people.

Their obedience to these laws recognized the sovereignty of Jehovah over the nation of Israel. Second, obeying these practical instructions emphasized the holiness of their God. Third, their God had a right to expect more of them than others and they had an obligation to respond to God's expectation of them.

2. **Cleansing from Childbirth (12:1-8).** The uncleanness attached to childbirth and the purification ritual that followed should not be assumed to imply that marriage and proper sexual relationships are sinful. Psalm 1:27 clearly indicates that children are a heritage from God. The birth of a child in Israel was a time for joy. Obviously God sees the birth of a child as a significant event among his people. The instructions also impressed upon the parents their moral and spiritual responsibility toward their newborn child.

3. **Cleansing from Leprosy (13:1-14:57)** Throughout chapters 13 and 14 the disease with which the writer deals is described as leprosy. It is clear from a number of facts that this was not the acute disease which we usually think of when we read or hear the word leprosy. The very symptoms described in Chapter 13 indicate several different types of virulent skin disease. The disease which we now know as leprosy was not curable in the ancient world. However, the diseases covered here were freely regarded as capable of complete healing.

A. The Diagnosis of the Disease

(13:1-59) These verses describe the method or procedure used in diagnosing when someone has leprosy. The primary object of the priest's intervention here is to stop the spread of the disease by removing the infected person or object from direct contact with society. The basic significance of the term unclean in ancient Israel was reference to the unfitness of a person or a thing for participation or use in worship. Yet it is clear from the catalog of unclean animals that it was not a ritual term but vitally connected with the fitness of an object or person for every day life in the community also. This becomes even clearer in this section dealing with leprosy. Chapter 13 concentrates upon the signs by which a harmful skin disease could be identified. Chapter 14 deals with measures for getting rid of the uncleanness and for return to normal life in the community. The disease was described as a form of uncleanness and its identification was set under the charge of the priest.

B. **The Offerings for Cleansing (14:1-57).** The procedure for the cleansing of the leper is described in detail in this chapter. If a leper thought the disease was cured he might go to the priest from his place of seclusion or the priest might go to him in his place of seclusion.

The priests were to make atonement for the leper. The atonement was not beyond any Israelite because provisions were made for those who were poor and could not afford the male lamb. There were substitutes that could be made for them.

These cleansing rites remind one of sin. The cleansing rites also alert us to the need for personal cleansing from the disease of sin. We are also reminded that God has made provisions for us also. He has sent a substitute for us. The substitute is Jesus Christ our Lord.

4. **Cleansing from Bodily Discharges (15:1-33).** This section of scripture deals with the bodily discharges which are declared to be unclean. First the writer deals with discharge from a man's body. Great care is taken through these instructions to prohibit the spreading of any kind of disease or germ that would infect the nation of Israel. A person with an unclean discharge is to stay in isolation for seven

days. After this if his discharge has ended he is to bring a sin offering and a guilt offering of two turtledoves or two pigeons.

The blood discharge of a woman is dealt with. She is to be impure for seven days and is to be untouched during these times because she has been declared to be unclean. Seven days after her uncleanness has ended she is to bring a special sin offering and burnt offering. Throughout the regulations we see that symptoms which may indicate a diseased condition or soon to do so and call for special precautions against the spread of the disease. Only when a sufficient time had elapsed to indicate a return to normal health was the affected person allowed to return to every day activity.

II. **The Day Of Atonement (16:1-34)** This chapter stands by itself. We can see that it resumes a series of regulations governing worship and the administration of the sanctuary which are central in Chapters 1-10. The day of Atonement had two main purposes: one, to make atonement on behalf of the high priest and his household; two, more generally for all the priests and to make an act of cleansing and purifying the Temple. Aaron, the high priest, probably had been entering the Holy Place on other days. Chapter 16 seems to establish the once a year entering of the Holy of Holies on what came to be known as the day of Atonement.

The day of Atonement has tremendous significance for the Christian. The entry of the high priest once a year into the most holy place to secure atonement for the people takes on in the Epistle of the Hebrews a distinctive significance as an interpretive picture of the death and sacrifice of Christ. Within Israel's religion the day of atonement had a very special place. For the Christians the day of Atonement is the day that Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary. He entered the most Holy of Holies and there once and for all made a sacrifice of himself. The significant thing about the atonement through Jesus Christ is that as the high priest, not only did he just offer the sacrifice on the day of atonement, but he became both the offerer and the sacrifice. He ended forever the need for any further atoning acts.

III. **Practices To Be Avoided (17:1-16)** Some people refer to the section beginning in chapter 17 as the Holiness Code.

Devotional

No Hindrances

By Ruby K. Poole, Macon

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

There are moments in our lives when things happen that make a lasting impression upon us.

Long before there was a bus ministry, our church wanted to buy a bus to use for our youth to go on prayer retreats, church camps, etc., and for all ages to use whenever needed for a church-related activity. One man in the church expressed all kinds of reasons why we did not need a church bus, and his feelings were known throughout the congregation because he came through loud and clear.

The day came to vote on the purchase of the bus, and the majority voted to buy one. I'm sure he was upset for a moment when people didn't see things as he did, because it's usually our human nature to be that way. But I'm sure joy came into his heart, as it did mine, when he walked to the front of the church and asked if he could say something. The privilege was granted and this is what he said. "Everyone knows that I did not want a church bus. I did not see the need for one. But if my church thinks we need a bus, then we need a bus, and I would like to give the first contribution."

From that beginning the money was raised in one day to pay for the bus. He did not quench the Spirit of God by hoarding resentment in his heart because he did not have his way. He joined with a body of believers so the Lord's work could go on.

The devil doesn't stop the Lord's work, but he can slow it down. Oh, what our churches could do in the name of Jesus if we were all more forgiving!

(Mrs. Poole is the wife of Hugh Poole, pastor of First Church, Macon.)

Off The Record

Spring also bring taxes! This idea of April comes from a little girl in California. Says her mother: "She was playing on the floor near my chair, while I was struggling with my income tax return. Finally she asked 'If you had a million dollars would we be

rich?' Dejectedly I answered, 'No, it would probably all go for taxes.' She thought a moment; then she said, 'I know what we could do. We just won't ride in taxis anymore!'" — "Van Winkle Reminder"

A cannibal king was a passenger on a luxury liner for the first time. When he went into the dining room, he was handed a menu which he looked at, then gave back to the waiter.

"Your order, Your Majesty?" the waiter asked.

"Order?" the cannibal asked. "I don't want any of that slop. Bring me the passenger list."

"The late Bishop Hare," said a Sioux Falls physician, "used, very reasonably, to impute skepticism to misunderstanding. He once told me about a Philadelphia business man of skeptical tendencies, who said to him: 'My dear Bishop Hare, I do not refuse to believe in the story of the ark. I can accept the ark's enormous size, its odd shape, and the vast number of animals it contained, but when I am asked, my dear doctor, to believe that the children of Israel carried this unwieldy thing for forty years in the wilderness — well, I'm bound to say my faith breaks down.'"



Fredrick Frank, left, a university student from Pakistan, questions Wade Summer, right, about a musical arrangement. (Photo by Mark Sandlin.)

Life and Work Lesson

The Option Of Singleness

By Tommy Tutor

Genesis 1:28-29; Matthew 19:10-12; 1 Corinthians 7:8-9; 25-31

Some think that Paul had been married because he was a member of the Sanhedrin. It was a regulation that members of the Sanhedrin must be married men. Suggestions have been made that Paul's wife had died or that she left him upon his conversion and subsequent missionary endeavors. At all events, he banished that side of life once and for all and he surely never remarried. A married man could never have lived the life of journeying which Paul lived. Now his desire that others should do the same came in focus because he expected Christ's return soon. Therefore, the short time should be given completely to spiritual matters rather than earthly.

II. God's Purpose In The Man/Woman Relationship (Genesis 1:26-28)

Just as God created man to extend his life in fellowship and fullness, so did he create woman that man's life might be further complemented in fellowship and fullness. Men and women were created equal but with different roles to fulfill in life. They have choices about the kinds of relationships they will form with one another, but they

The regulations in Chapter 17:1-16 have to do with those animals slaughtered for food which were also acceptable as sacrifices for worship at the tabernacle as prescribed in Chapters 1-7. A principal reason for this regulation was that the children of Israel would no longer sacrifice to pagan idols.

The verses 10-16 deal with meats not acceptable as sacrifices. The Israelites were instructed not to eat the blood of animals. It is recalled the blood is to be drained. In the case of those animals being sacrificed the blood is to be poured out at the foot of the brazen altar and drained away by a conduit. The blood of animals killed in the heart was to be poured out on the ground and covered respectfully with dust. The reason for forbidding the eating of blood was that the Lord had declared that the life is in the blood and "I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls."

These verses give us indication that the life runs in the blood. The Lord said, "For it is the blood that makes atonement by reason of the life," in the latter part of verse 11. These verses also remind us of the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

have no choice about being placed by God in a relationship. The God-ordained attraction between the sexes is a fact with powerful implications for all people. Coming to terms with one's sexuality and learning to rightly relate to the opposite sex is essential to marital health and to fulfilling God's purpose. God created men and women in His image and gave them the specific tasks of subduing and replenishing the earth. Thus they are to harness God's creation to the benefit of the human race.

One way in which persons can obey God's call and accomplish his purpose is to choose a mate, marry, and rear children. Others may choose an alternate way, but they are nonetheless obligated to fulfill God's call and purpose as it relates directly to them. This takes men and women working together in love in all areas of society, not just in the home relationship.

II. Jesus Recognized The Option Not To Marry (Matthew 19:10-12)

Jesus' high ideal of marriage in Matthew 19:4-9 is difficult for the disciples to accept. They simply reflect the thinking of their day. The disciples suggested that if marriage is so demanding, a man would do well not to marry. Jesus pointed out that remaining single was demanding also, and is intended by God only to certain people. The intimacy needs of some people are so great that they could not bear the loneliness of not being married. Therefore, marriage is necessary for them. However, Jesus noted some exceptions in society. While the reasons for remaining single may be different in our world, the basic principle is the same. Some people are not suited for marriage because of physical, emotional, or vocational barriers. One reason, maybe, we have so many divorces is that some people are not suited to or are not yet ready for marriage. Jesus noted this and said, "He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."

Both singleness and marriage carry heavy demands. Christian character can be severely tested by one who remains single and abides by the biblical standard of sexual purity. In our society today many married adults have difficulty in living by the biblical standard of sexual purity within marriage.

III. Paul Weighed The Option (1 Corinthians 7:8-9)

Paul's view of Christianity and the

world led him to live the single life, and he felt that widows and single persons would do well to remain unmarried. He did not, however, fail to recognize the sex drive as being too powerful for some to remain single. He noted, "It is better to marry than to burn." While Paul could handle the pressure, he knew that some people simply could not do this without suffering severe and long lasting damage.

Both Paul and the early Christians would have condemned the modern practice of living together without benefit of marriage. They strongly emphasized loyalty within marriage and continence outside marriage.

IV. Paul's Personal Opinion (1 Corinthians 7:25-34)

Inspired wisdom would not let Paul give a command here, but his personal opinion. He made a distinction between his personal opinion and the word of the Lord. He suggested that the single life was preferable for those not now married because of the near approach of the second coming of Christ. So near was the end, he felt, that believers should be concentrating on the work of the Lord, not dividing their attention between the Kingdom and worldly matters. While it was not a sin to marry, he suggested that the needs and trials of the day made singleness the best option.

A permanent principle is set forth in this passage. While we may not share Paul's expectation that the end of time is pressing upon us immediately, we do believe that some persons can best serve God as singles. Simply they may not be able to divide themselves between family responsibilities and the special work to which they have been called of God to do. These Jesus noted in Matthew 19:12. "There be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake."

Although God created woman to fill a void in man's life and to share in replenishing the earth, he also left the option to remain single. In choosing singleness we should carefully seek divine guidance. Never should this option be used as a license to immorality. Those who live by the so-called "new morality" may be guilty of doing just this. The only biblical basis for singleness is that of placing spiritual matters before the earthly. Let us not forget that this option too has heavy demands.